



OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER CITY OF ST. LOUIS



DARLENE GREEN
Comptroller

STATEMENT

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(ST. LOUIS—August 27, 2019) As of this writing the Comptroller's Office has not received an emergency contract for Cure Violence. I believe the mayor's focus has been misguided for far too long; and to-date, she has not followed through on her promise of a contract.

It is not acceptable that this administration waits for a crisis before acting. The mayor's office had sufficient time to issue an RFP and hold bids for a violence reduction program. Only after a public outcry did the mayor's office feel compelled to address the people's concerns. And now another week has passed, and the Comptroller's Office has still not received a contract for Cure Violence.

It is going to take a sustained focus and commitment, working together and partnering with the community to make meaningful change. Without the full focus and attention of the mayor, without a change of priorities this sad reality will continue.

I call upon the mayor to collaborate on an agenda addressing the real and immediate needs of the people of St. Louis, instead of seeking to extend her base of political power beyond the bounds of the City Charter.

The checks and balances inherent in the City Charter matter. The office of Comptroller is a watchdog for the taxpayers and citizens of St. Louis. Our very office seal is of a watchdog guarding the people's money. We take our responsibilities, as spelled out in the City Charter, to heart.

As Comptroller, I have worked with past mayors and our Board of Aldermen to bring the city safely through a very tough economic downturn that devastated the finances of many other cities. It is in this spirit that I have sent the mayor a collaboration agreement in the form of a written MOU to signify our willingness to collaborate on an agenda to better serve the citizens of St. Louis.

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Comptroller Darlene Green is the chief fiscal officer of the City of St. Louis and is charged with safeguarding the city's credit rating and with protecting taxpayer dollars. Visit www.stlouis-mo.gov/comptroller to learn more about the Office of the Comptroller.